

**FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR MEETING  
COURTHOUSE ANNEX, COMMISSION MEETING ROOM  
NOVEMBER 15, 2022  
9:00 AM  
MINUTES**

Commissioners Present: Ricky Jones-Chairman, Jessica Ward-Vice-Chairman, Cheryl Sanders, Noah Lockley, and Otice Amison

Others Present: Michele Maxwell-Clerk of Court, Michael Shuler-County Attorney, Michael Moron—County Coordinator, Erin Griffith- Fiscal Manager/Grants Coordinator, and Jessica Gay-Deputy Clerk to the Board

1. Call to Order  
Chairman Jones called the meeting to order.
2. Prayer and Pledge  
Commissioner Ward led the Board in prayer followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Swearing-In/Oath of Office Ceremony**

3. Commissioner Cheryl K. Sanders  
Judge J. Gordon Shuler officiated the swearing-in and oath of office ceremony for Commissioner Sanders.
4. Commissioner Otice D. Amison  
Judge J. Gordon Shuler officiated the swearing-in and oath of office ceremony for Commissioner Amison. Commissioner Amison was joined by his wife Courtney, and two of his sons, Christian and Cruz.

Commissioner Sanders said she would like to recognize the death of her husband noting that her focus remains the same, God, family, and the people of Franklin County.

**Organizational Meeting**

5. Selection of Chairman
6. Selection of Vice Chairman  
**Commissioner Sanders made a motion to nominate Commissioner Jones as chairman and Commissioner Ward as vicechair for a one-year term. Commissioner Amison seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.**

**Regular Meeting**

7. Approval of Minutes  
**On a motion by Commissioner Ward, seconded by Commissioner Sanders, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board approved the minutes of the FCBCC September 6, 2022, Budget Hearing and the October 18, 2022, Regular Meeting. Motion carried 5-0.**

8. Payment of County Bills  
**On a motion by Commissioner Sanders, seconded by Commissioner Ward, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board approved the Payment of County Bills. Motion carried 5-0.**
9. Awards and Recognitions
  - a. Duke Energy- Mary Swoope – Grant Presentations  
Ms. Swoope presented the Board with a check in the amount of \$25,000 for a grant that was applied for to begin the strategic planning for Franklin County’s economic development.

Mr. Moron presented the following item from his report at this time.

6. Action Item: Site Readiness Workshop  
Earlier this morning, Mrs. Mary Swoope of Duke Energy presented a \$25,000 check for a Duke Energy Economic Development Strategic Plan. Duke Energy has also been working on a Site Readiness Project at the Airport and would like to present its findings to the Board. I recommend doing this in a workshop setting on December 6<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 p.m. if everyone’s schedule allows it. Mrs. Swoope can answer any questions regarding the Site Readiness project. Board action to schedule a workshop on December 6<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 p.m. for Duke Energy’s Site Readiness Project presentation.

Chairman Jones thanked Ms. Swoope and Duke Energy for everything they have done for the county. He noted that we in the worst kind of way need to diversify our county. He said the discussion we have been having is the industrial land around the airport, to make sure that we are ready and available should an opportunity become available.

**On a motion by Commissioner Ward, seconded by Commissioner Sanders, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board approved scheduling a workshop on December 6<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 p.m. for Duke Energy’s Site Readiness Project presentation. Motion carried 5-0.**

10. Public Comments

Mr. Rudy Meng spoke to the Board regarding the parking issue at Alligator Point noting he is against the beach renourishment and the idea of parking at the old KOA.

Ms. Mel Kelley spoke to the Board about an issue that she said was brought up a few years ago. She said she had asked over two years ago for the county to replace the door to the annex building to allow for handicapped/disabled accessibility. She asked the Board to include in their budget the funds to bring this building up to compliance. Ms. Kelley encouraged the Board to ride the entrances of the county to see the new welcome signs. She noted that the delays to Island View Park are an embarrassment to the county.

Mr. Al Stone spoke to the Board about the flooding issue on Bluff Road. He noted he has worked together with Dewberry Engineers and Mr. Howard to come up with a solution. He said they have reduced the options down to three. He said all three property owners are agreeable to giving an easement. He said they would report back to the next month with a cost for the solution.

Ms. Debi Jordan appeared via Zoom and spoke about the Veterans tribute to our veterans.

### **Constitutional Officers**

#### 11. Sheriff – A.J. “Tony” Smith – Ballistic Shields

Sheriff Smith and Officer Hamm presented one of the recently purchased ballistic shields to the Board noting the newer shields will withstand rifle rounds. Commissioner Amison asked if they had a shield with wheels. Sheriff Smith noted they do. He said it is large and hard to maneuver. They will most likely keep this one at the school. The shield weighs about 35 pounds and has a shoulder strap.

Mr. Moron presented the following item from his report at this time.

#### \*11. Informational Item: Meeting with Sheriff on Travel Trailers

Mr. Steve Paterson (Building Official), Mrs. Cortni Bankston (Zoning Administrator), and I will meet with Sheriff Smith and his staff tomorrow to discuss the current Travel Trailer Ordinance (82-6). The Sheriff would like to recommend some changes to the ordinance for your consideration. These changes will assist him with the enforcement of the ordinance.

Chairman Jones said he was happy to see the presentation from the Sheriff’s department. He said that we never know what is going to happen on any given day, and you can’t be ready for that day if you aren’t ready for every day.

### **Department Directors Reports**

#### 12. Superintendent of Roads and Bridges – Howard Nabors

Mr. Nabors had no action items. He welcomed Commissioner Sanders and Commissioner Amison. Mr. Nabors noted that they have got some signs up on West Pine and that C30 is next on the list. There will be signs to put up alerting to stop ahead as well as strips.

Commissioner Sanders asked how many inmates Mr. Nabors was getting. Mr. Nabors said he gets about six to seven. Commissioner Sanders said the county had a labor crew back in the day. She said it may come back to getting a labor crew together to take care of these things. Commissioner Sanders asked Mr. Moron to get with Mr. Nabors and see what they need to do to get a labor crew. Mr. Moron said so basically a temporary work crew when we can’t get inmates to keep up with the work? Mr. Moron noted that Mr. Nabors includes a report of the number of inmates he is receiving along with his report to the Board. **Commissioner Sanders made a motion to look into creating a labor crew.** Mr. Moron said he would need to get with Mrs. Griffith to find the funding from somewhere. Mrs. Griffith said we may pursue a part-time seasonal position. Mr. Nabors said

the biggest thing throughout the county is the ditches. **Commissioner Ward seconded the motion.** She said that she echoes Commissioner Sanders sentiment, and we don't need to have our constituents be underserved because we don't have the inmates. Mr. Nabors asked if they would want part-time or full-time. Mr. Moron said he would need to sit down with Mrs. Griffith and Mr. Nabors to come up with a plan. Commissioner Sanders noted that this was no reflection on Mr. Nabors crew. Commissioner Lockley said this could be a quick fix. You could have crews rotate, half work the first part of the week, others work the second half. Commissioner Amison said most people aren't looking for a full-time job. Commissioner Amison said that at a few meetings back there was a criminal history stipulation discussed. He asked if there was any way to amend that when we don't have inmates around. Mr. Nabors said when we hire someone, we have to through the sheriff's department and the prison. Commissioner Amison asked if this was a requirement to work with the road department period. Mr. Moron said he believed what Commissioner Amison was asking was if they aren't around inmates, do they have to pass these criteria. Mr. Nabors noted that as of now, anyone who is hired has to be inmate certified. Commissioner Amison asked if there was anyone, we could reach out to at the state level to get some type of leniency on this rule. Mr. Nabors said the part-time employees would not have to pass this requirement. Commissioner Sanders said maybe we could work with the Sheriff's department on letting inmates who have already been sentenced to work. Commissioner Sanders noted that we may need to revise the policy. Attorney Shuler said the Board would need to consult with the labor attorney. Mr. Moron will bring back what information he can obtain at a future meeting. Chairman Jones called for public comments. Mr. Will Kendrick said the Board should put more pressure on the state to reopen the work camp. Mr. Moron called for public comments online, and there were none. **Motion carried 5-0.**

Mr. Nabors noted that on the options for correcting the flooding issue on Bluff Road, he is not sure what the best option would be. Commissioner Amison asked about the striping of roads. He said on Squire Road they have some very deep ditches and some elderly who live out there are concerned about it. Mr. Nabors noted that he knew Bayview Drive and Oyster Road will soon be striped. Mrs. Griffith said that we would request a change order with Roberts and Roberts to get that done.

#### 13. Solid Waste Director – Fonda Davis

Mr. Davis had nothing to report to the Board. Commissioner Sanders announced that Franklin County was the Big Bend Superbowl champions. Commissioner Sanders said she would like to make a motion to bring both teams in for the next meeting. Mr. Moron said there is no need for a motion that is something Mr. Davis and he could handle together.

Commissioner Sanders said that the press box at Will Kendrick Park needed some work. She said there were some things in the works during her last term but non seemed to go through. She will follow up with Mr. Davis.

#### 14. Emergency Management Director – Pam Brownell

Mrs. Brownell thanked the Board for the opportunity to serve Franklin County for 17 years. She noted that Commissioner Lockley and Commissioner Sanders were on the Board when she was appointed. She indicated she had some health issues and would be retiring the first of January. She would like the Board to consider appointed Mrs. Jennifer Daniels into her position. She noted that

Mrs. Daniels is prepared to step into the role. Commissioner Sanders clarified that Mrs. Daniels would then advertise for her position. Chairman Jones asked if this something the Board has done before. Mr. Moron said at a minimum they would need to advertise internally. Mr. Moron asked Mrs. Brownell if she would be taking time off before her retirement in January. Mrs. Brownell noted that she would taking a couple weeks off to use up her time, however, Mrs. Daniels currently fills in when she is out of the office. Mr. Moron said he would recommend the Board temporarily appoint Mrs. Daniels as the interim director. Mr. Moron said we could do an internal advertisement for the position. Commissioner Amison said since Mrs. Brownell is not going to be taking time off, we could advertise internally to comply with the policy. Mrs. Brownell noted that her official retirement date is January 2, 2023. **Commissioner Amison made a motion to advertise internally until December 2<sup>nd</sup>. Commissioner Ward seconded the motion.** The Board discussed advertising Mrs. Brownell's position and Mrs. Daniel's position together. **Commissioner Amison amended his motion to include advertising Mrs. Brownell and Mrs. Daniels positions internally until December 2<sup>nd</sup>. Commissioner Ward seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.**

Chairman Jones said that someone had asked him recently about voluntary evacuations and how they are determined. He said that he asked them had they ever made a decision for every resident of Franklin County at one time, if not then maybe they shouldn't criticize. He said that we are always going to err on the side of caution to protect our citizens. Mrs. Brownell said they had put out some information on their website that explained how they make these decisions.

15. Extension Office Director – Erik Lovestrand

Mr. Lovestrand updated the Board on the Peanut Butter Challenge. He said they had a student at the Franklin County High School who took it upon himself to start this initiative at the school. He said that they have collected over 8800 ounces of peanut butter. He said they will have over 1000 pounds of peanut butter to distribute throughout the county.

16. Mosquito Control – Dewitt Polous

Mr. Polous appeared via Zoom. He welcomed Commissioner Sanders and Commissioner Amison. He said they will begin the ditch cleaning process on November 29<sup>th</sup>.

### Other Reports

17. Interim Airport Manager – Ted Mosteller

Mr. Mosteller had no action items. Mr. Moron presented item 2 from his report at this time.

2. Action Item: Notice to Proceed Airport Obstruction Removal

At your September 6<sup>th</sup> meeting the Board opened and read aloud bids for the Airport Obstruction Removal project. At your following meeting on September 20<sup>th</sup>, based on Mr. John Collins (AVCON) recommendation, the Board awarded the contract to the lowest responsive bidder, Collins Land Service out of Tallahassee. Today, for the Chairman's signature, I have the Notice to Proceed for this project. Once signed, the completion date for this project will be January 15, 2023. As a reminder, this project will clear the obstruction around Runway 18, therefore reopening that runway. Mr. Collins is still finalizing the total obstruction removal project. Board action to authorize the Chairman's signature on the Notice to Proceed for the Airport Obstruction Removal

project.

Commissioner Amison inquired about the areas to be cleared with this project. He then asked about other areas of the airport to be cleared. Mr. Moron noted that he will get the total numbers to Commissioner Amison with the different clearing projects.

**Commissioner Amison made a motion to authorize the Chairman's signature on the Notice to Proceed for the Airport Obstruction Removal project. Commissioner Sanders seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.**

The Board recessed at 10:15 am and reconvened at 10:37 am.

The Board moved to public hearings at this time.

### **Public Hearings 10:30 a.m. (ET)**

#### 20. Zoning Change – 32.97 +/- Acre of Land

AN ORDINANCE REZONING 32.97 +/- ACRE OF LAND IN SECTION 26, TOWNSHIP 6 SOUTH, RANGE 4 WEST, FROM A-2 AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT TO R-6 RURAL RESIDENTIAL.

Mrs. Bankston presented the item to the Board. The owners' agent, Ms. Charlotte Schneider noted that they are wanting to divide into three ten-to-eleven-acre parcels. As of now, the property is unbuildable. Attorney Shuler said it would be appropriate for the Board to ask any questions that they have at this time. No Commissioner comments or questions currently. The owners' agent noted that there are R-1 zoned parcels surrounding the property. Chairman Jones called for public comments at this time.

Mrs. Nita Mosbley said she has a 33-acre parcel with a house on it. She said they were against dividing this property into ten-acre parcels. She said they have a hard time maintaining the roads in this area. Any additional ten-acre parcels will put them where they are not able to get to their homes. She asked the Board not to put additional burden on them.

Mr. Craig Adams spoke to Mr. Curenton and he proposed presenting this with a deed restriction that he is only going to build one house on this property. He said they don't want him to get this rezoned into ten-acre tracts and put more burden on them. He requested the Board vote no today and let them speak with the applicant.

Ms. Charlotte Schneider, agent for the applicant, said she would like to withdraw the request at this time in order to allow time to speak with the other homeowners in order to come up with a plan. Chairman Jones noted for the record that the applicant has withdrawn their request.

#### 21. Zoning Change – 50 +/- Acre of Land

AN ORDINANCE REZONING 50 +/- ACRE OF LAND IN SECTION 24, TOWNSHIP 6 SOUTH, RANGE WEST, FROM A-2 AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT TO R-6 RURAL RESIDENTIAL.

Mrs. Bankston presented the item to the Board. Mrs. Paige Joseph, agent for the applicant requested the Board approve the request. She said they have a potential buyer for 30 acres who

plan to put one home on it. She noted by dividing the property it would increase the dues to be paid. Mrs. Shoaf said they originally purchased the 100 acres with intentions to make it their home. She said the homeowner's association is divided. She said there are many places where there is R-6 and even less than that. The roads are in poor condition. Mrs. Joseph said they have a potential buyer for the additional 20 acres. Mrs. Shoaf spoke about the removal of the pine trees and replacing them with palms.

Mrs. Nita Mosbley gave the same argument as with the previous request. She said this property abuts her property. A lot of people want to purchase 10 acres to hunt. She said she doesn't know what these people want, if they want 30 acres, give us time to give them one per 30 acres. We've got to do something; the dues are only \$200.

Mr. Craig Adams said this property abuts his and his wife's property. He is from Georgia and moved here to retire. He said we moved here to live in the forest. I don't mind someone having a 30-acre tract of land, but if moves into hardship he may want to sell it off. He asked the Board to vote no and give the association time to come up with a plan.

Mrs. Mel Kelly spoke as a homeowner in the Hickory Hammock area. He said they have one of the few properties that do not flood when heavy rains come. She asked the Board not to open the door for this zoning. She said their intentions are to live under the original covenants when they bought the property 20 years ago. She said she had researched the R-6 zoning and it is very scary to her as a property owner.

Mr. James St. Clair spoke as president of the Pine Coast Association. He said there are some ten-acre tracts in the area. Mr. St. Clair spoke of adding the additional tracts and how much it would cost to maintain the roads. He said they have twice the traffic as before.

Mrs. Joseph asked if there was a zoning between the 10 and 40 range that would allow this change to happen. Attorney Shuler said the zoning codes govern 10 and 40 and if there is a preexisting loss of record of less than forty it would have been grandfathered in. Right now, the county zoning is either 10 or 40 acres. Mrs. Joseph said so their bylaws can't trump the zoning code? Attorney Shuler said if they divide the 50-acre tract into 10-acre parcels they could potentially put a private restriction on their own property. The county is going to go by the county code when issuing permits. The county does not enforce any HOA covenants and restrictions. Chairman Jones noted that the Board could only act on what was before them today.

Mrs. Jean Strominer spoke and has a property that adjoins the Shoaf's. She said they purchased the property to have a farm. She said their community is designed for agriculture and believed to be safe from overpopulation. She said they purchased the property to get away from the subdivisions. While she believes the person wants to buy the 30 acres to build a home, they could potentially sell.

Mrs. Mel Kelly said she had a copy of the amendments to the covenants from June 1, 1993. She said she understands the county restrictions are different but thinks it is only fair that they be respected.

Commissioner Sanders said there were a couple of issues with the two families. She said one of them is not here. Commissioner Sanders said she has had numerous calls against this issue. They wanted a way for their family to live out there by themselves. She said we came up with an idea that if they could show lineage to the property owner it would be allowed. She said that is how that was done, with a lineage to the original property owner or a hardship. Commissioner Lockley asked if there was any paperwork going back on this. Commissioner Amison said the main issue is it sets precedence moving forward. He said he is involved with HOAs however the county has

to go with the law of the land. We have to base our decisions on our laws. Attorney Shuler said this is correct. He said h would like to confirm there is a specific provision in the comprehensive plan to allow a lineal descendant to live on the property. **Commissioner Sanders made a motion to deny, Commissioner Sanders seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.**

18. Bobby Miller – Building Height Restrictions

Mr. Miller presented his request to the Board at this time. He would like the Board to strengthen the height restriction currently in place. He would like the Board to consider requiring a super majority before any amendment to the building height restriction. **Commissioner Lockley made a motion to approve.** Attorney Shuler said he will need to research the issue and give the Board a recommendation. **Commissioner Lockley amended her motion to allow Attorney Shuler to research the issue and provide the Board with a recommendation. Commissioner Sanders seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0, Commissioner Lockley had stepped out of the room.**

18. Local Technology Planning Team – Pat O’Connell – Update

Mrs. Pat O’Connell update the Board on the progress of the Local Technology Planning Team. Mrs. O’Connell explained the purpose of the team is to facilitate the development of a strategic plan for Broadband development to every household and business in the county with minimum speeds of 25 megabits per second (Mbps) download and upload speeds of 3 megabits per second (Mbps). Mrs. O’Connell announced the team members as Kevin Ward, Myrtis Wynn, Victoria Hart, Cheryl Frisch-Middletown, Sebrina Brown, and Adrian Elliott. The team has identified community priorities as education, health care, and economic development.

Mr. Moron thanked the Board for allowing them to engage Mrs. O’Connell. He noted that the internet needs to be accessible and affordable for all residents. Chairman Jones noted this is one of our biggest needs as a county, reliable, accessible, and affordable.

Mr. Moron presented the following item from his report at this time.

7. Action Item: ARPC LTPT Partnership & Broadband Workshop

Earlier this morning you heard Mrs. Pat O’Connell’s (Interim Local Technology Planning Team Chairman) Report. Last week, Mrs. O’Connell, Mrs. Cortni Bankston, and I met with Apalachee Regional Planning Council representatives to discuss any assistance they can offer to help with our Broadband Initiative efforts as they are assisting other counties in this region. Staff would like Board approval to work with ARPC before requesting any proposals or quotes. Board discussion and possible action.

**Commissioner Sanders made a motion to approve staff working with ARPC before requesting any proposals or quotes for the broadband initiative. Seconded by Commissioner Ward. Motion carried 5-0.**

8. Action Item: Broadband Workshop

Mrs. O’Connell and Mrs. Bankston met with a few companies that provide internet service in the County. At some point, these firms may apply for Broadband funding and probably will ask for a letter of support from the County. We’ve been told that county letters of support help with scoring and funding for Broadband projects. Mrs. O’Connell and I think that it would be proper for these

companies to meet with you in a workshop setting to explain their plan to make Broadband accessible for your residents. Mrs. O’Connell may have additional comments and can suggest a possible date for the workshop. Board discussion and possible action.

Mrs. O’Connell said she could find out a schedule from the providers for possibly scheduling a workshop with them. Commissioner Lockley asked if this project would qualify for Triumph funding due to the ability to put people to work. Mrs. Griffith said that is a possibility. Commissioner Ward thanked Mrs. O’Connell for all her work along with the board members who have taken this task on.

The Board recessed at 11:58 a.m. and reconvened at 12:08 p.m.

The Board moved to the P&Z report at this time.

- 21. Variance Requests
  - a. 537 Gulf Shore Drive

Consideration of a request for a variance to construct an equipment building 25 feet into the 50-foot wetlands setback at property described as 537 Gulf Shore Drive, Dog Island, Franklin County, Florida. Request submitted by Lisa Echols, agent for Duke Energy Florida, LLC, applicant. Applicants have spoken with the Floodplain Administrator regarding the allowable size for a rated flood zone. Site plan shows they have not exceeded the square footage allowable as advised by the Floodplain Administrator.

**On a motion by Commissioner Lockley, seconded by Commissioner Ward, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board approved the variance to construct an equipment building 25 feet into the 50-foot wetlands setback at property described as 537 Gulf Shore Drive, Dog Island, Franklin County, Florida. Motion carried 5-0.**

- b. 1420 Camellia Court

Consideration of a request for a variance to demolish and reconstruct new stairs and landings 5.8 feet into the 25-foot front setback to meet the current Florida Building Code requirements at the property described as 1420 Camellia Court, St. George Island, Franklin County, Florida. Request submitted by Tyler Marsh, agent for William and Jackie Border, applicants. The current stairs and landings encroach 5.2 feet into the front 25-foot setback.

**On a motion by Commissioner Ward, seconded by Commissioner Lockley, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board approved the variance to demolish and reconstruct new stairs and landings 5.8 feet into the 25-foot front setback to meet the current Florida Building Code requirements at the property described as 1420 Camellia Court, St. George Island, Franklin County, Florida. Motion carried 5-0.**

- c. 1909 Indian Harbor Road

Consideration of a request for a variance for the septic for a new single-family home 5 feet into the 75-foot wetlands setback. The property described as 1909 Indian Harbor Road, Indian Bay Village, St. George Island, Franklin County, Florida. Request submitted by Aaron Sarchet, agent

for Jay Noonkester, applicant.

Mrs. Bankston noted this item was tabled at the P&Z meeting.

22. Critical Shoreline Applications
  - a. 328 Patton Street

Consideration of a request to construct a 6'x6' platform, a 5'x37' access pier extending from the shoreline to a 10'x32' terminal platform, a 12'x25' covered boat slip with lift, and a 12'x25' uncovered boat slip at the property described as 328 Patton Street, St. George Island, Franklin County, Florida. Request submitted by Aaron Sarchet, agent for Marc Inglese, applicant. FDEP exemption has been received. Attorney Shuler requested if the Board is going to approve the application, then approve contingent upon them providing a revised drawing.

**Commissioner Lockley made a motion to approve contingent upon receiving a revised drawing to ensure they are not encroaching on anyone's riparian rights. Commissioner Sanders seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.**

- b. 399 Hwy 98

Consideration of a request to construct a Commercial Dock that will consist of a 49'x4' access walkway, a 60'x6' terminus with 3 finger piers creating 5 boat slips at the property described as 399 Hwy 98, Eastpoint, Franklin County, Florida. Request submitted by Garlick Environmental Associates, agent for Jeanne Dail, applicant. Decision will be contingent upon State and Federal permits.

Chairman Jones said that he believes this should be tabled until the dredging of the channel is completed. Mr. Garlick noted that permits would not be ready for five to six months. Chairman Jones suggested tabling until the permits are ready. **Commissioner Sanders made a motion to table the item, Commissioner Amison seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.**

23. Commercial Site Plan Applications
  - a. 399 Highway 98

Consideration of a request for Commercial Site Plan review of a 30'x40' Commercial Building located at 399 US Hwy 98, Eastpoint, Franklin County, Florida. Request submitted by Garlick Environmental, agent for Jeanne Dail, applicant. Building will be Admin Office for the Marina and a Retail Bait and Tackle Store.

Commissioner Ward noted that he cannot proceed until water and sewer approvals and traffic safety evaluation is completed. **Commissioner made a motion to approve, seconded by Commissioner Lockley. Motion carried 5-0.**

### **County Staff & Attorney Reports**

24. Fiscal Manager/Grants Coordinator – Erin Griffith
  1. Board Action: Alligator Drive Final Time Extension Change Order #6

The FEMA funded repairs of Alligator Drive are now complete. The flashing lights have been removed and access has been restored. The project will require as-built certification/surveys and close-out of permits with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection. The engineers are

recommending approval of change order #6 which will extend the final completion date to January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2023, to allow time for the project closeout process.

**On a motion by Commissioner Sanders, seconded by Commissioner Lockley, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board approved the attached no-cost final time extension change order which will extend the final completion date to January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2023, to allow for closeout of permits. Motion carried 5-0.**

2. Board Action: Island View Park Repairs Final Time Extension Change Order #2  
The FEMA funded repairs of Island View Park are nearly complete. There continues to be some ongoing delays with materials and this extension with a final completion date of January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2023, will allow sufficient time for completion and formal project closeout.

**On a motion by Commissioner Sanders, seconded by Commissioner Amison and Commissioner Ward, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board approved the attached no-cost time extension change order which will extend the substantial completion date to January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2023, to allow for project closeout. Motion carried 5-0.**

3. Board Action: BRIC Grant Application Submission Weems Windows Project  
Application was due yesterday for the BRIC Grant Program – of the three projects which were initially discussed for the program (security windows at the Franklin County Jail, courthouse roof replacement and Weems windows replacement), the window replacement for Wees Hospital was the only project which passed the initial vetting process for the grant program. If the grant is awarded, the county will be responsible for at 10% match (\$103,958) for the total estimated project construction costs (\$1,039,581). If funded, the 10% match requirement will be paid from the available balance in the Health Care Trust Fund.

**On a motion Commissioner Lockley seconded by Commissioner Ward, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board granted retroactive approval for the Chairman to sign and submit the BRIC grant application which was due on 11/14/2022. Motion carried 5-0.**

4. Board Action: CIGP Widen & Resurface Patton Drive – Design  
At the October 18<sup>th</sup> meeting, Franklin County received a \$54,602 CIGP grant agreement from the Florida Department of Transportation for the design, permitting, preparation of construction plans and specifications to widen and resurface the .735 miles of Patton Drive from SR30 (US98) to SR300 Island Drive. This project will widen the road from the existing 10' lanes to two standard 12' wide travel lanes. Roadway swales and ditches will also be regraded to improve drainage. As Franklin County follows the Consultants' Competitive Negotiation Act (F.S. 287.055) in selecting engineering firms for design improvements, the ongoing county engineering contract with Dewberry and Florida Statute 287.055 allows for the county to negotiate with the contracted engineer for this project.

**On a motion by Commissioner Lockley, seconded by Commissioner Ward, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board authorized staff to negotiate with county engineers Dewberry or the design of this project. Motion carried 5-0.**

5. Board Action: Budget Resolutions – Fiscal Year 2021/2022

Attached are eight resolutions for the adoption of unanticipated revenues as part of the end-of-the-year bookkeeping. These funds were not included in your original adopted 2021/2022 budget because at the time of budget adoption they were unanticipated. Florida Statute 129 allows a county 60-days after the end of a fiscal year to incorporate unanticipated revenues into the prior year's budget. This is the last commission meeting that any of these resolutions can be approved.

The 1st resolution is for \$1,153,058 in federal and state grant funds received from the Florida Division of Emergency Management relative to the FEMA Island View Park repairs project. The 2nd resolution is for \$116,591 in federal grant funds received from the US Treasury relative to the American Recovery Plan program. The 3rd resolution is for \$15,536 in federal and state grant funds received from the Florida Division of Emergency Management for the FEMA repairs of C30 Gulf Avenue. The 4th resolution is for \$90,595 in state grant funds received from the Florida Department of Transportation for the SCOP Womack Creek Bridge project. The 5th resolution is for \$739,997 in state grant funds received from the Florida Department of Transportation for the SCOP Timber Island Road project. The 6th resolution is for \$6,000,000 in federal RESTORE program consortium grant funds received from the United States Treasury for the dredging of the Eastpoint and 2 Mile Channels. The 7th resolution is for \$100,000 in state grant funds received from the Florida Division of Management Services for the E911 1 GIS Data Support project. The 8th resolution is for \$3,530 in additional state grant funds received from the Florida Department of Agriculture for the Mosquito Control Program. The 9th resolution is for \$20,000 in additional permitting revenues used for professional services for the Franklin County Building Department.

**On a motion by Commissioner Lockley, seconded by Commissioner Amison, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board adopted the nine attached budget resolutions. Motion carried 5-0.**

6. Board Action: Line-Item Budget Amendments – Fiscal Year 2021/2022

I have four line-item budget amendments for approval by the Board – budget amendments simply move budgeted amounts between line items during the fiscal year.

Line-Item Budget Amendment Requests:

1. The budget amendment below is needed to adjust line items to cover additional expenses for part-time professional assistance during staffing shortages in the planning and zoning department:

DECREASE 001.20.11.3100 County Commission – Professional Services \$ 16,671.00  
INCREASE 001.25.515.1300 Planning & Zoning – Other Salaries & Wages \$ 14,688.00  
INCREASE 001.25.515.2100 Planning & Zoning – FICA Taxes \$ 1,124.00 INCREASE  
001.25.515.2200 Planning & Zoning – Retirement \$ 859.00

2. The budget amendment below is needed to adjust line items to move additional expenses within three departments with shared expenditures: Administrative Services, Fiscal Management

and Planning Departments:

DECREASE 001.25.515.1200 Planning & Zoning – Regular Salaries \$2,432.00  
INCREASE 001.21.512.1200 Administrative Services – Regular Salaries \$1,471.00  
INCREASE 001.27.513.1200 Administrative Services – Regular Salaries \$961.00

3. The budget amendment below is needed to fund unanticipated repairs of the compactor at the Landfill:

DECREASE 304.40.534.6401 Tipping Fees – Capital Outlay \$41,259.00  
INCREASE 304.40.534.4600 Tipping Fees – Repair & Maintenance \$41,259.00

4. The budget amendment below is needed to move budgeted funds from the Solid Waste Department to Parks and Recreation to cover shared operational expenses.

DECREASE 001.40.534.4300 Solid Waste – Utility Service \$35,000.00  
INCREASE 001.70.572.4600 Parks & Recreation – Repair & Maintenance \$35,000.00

5. The budget amendment below is needed to move budgeted funds between line items in the E911 Fund for the GIS Data Support Grant:

DECREASE 163.47.525.3400 E911 – Other Contractual Services \$188,270.00  
INCREASE 163.47.525.3101 E911 – Professional Services \$188,270.00  
DECREASE 163.334.230 State Grants E911 \$188,270.00

**On a motion by Commissioner Ward, seconded by Commissioner Lockley, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board approved the five line-item budget amendments summarized above. Motion carried 5-0.**

25. County Coordinator – Michael Moron

1. Action Item: Local State of Emergency Declaration – TS Nicole

As your Emergency Management team prepared for Tropical Storm Nicole, Mrs. Pam Brownell, Emergency Management Director, recommended that the Chairman sign a State of Emergency Proclamation in case there was any local damage from Tropical Storm Nicole. Past Board action has authorized the Chairman to sign LSE Declarations based on the Director’s recommendation. This signature is then ratified at the next County Commission regular meeting.

**On a motion by Commissioner Ward, seconded by Commissioner Sanders, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board ratified the Chairman’s signature on the Tropical Storm Nicole Local State of Emergency Declaration. Motion carried 5-0.**

2. Action Item: Notice to Proceed Airport Obstruction Removal

At your September 6th meeting the Board opened and read aloud bids for the Airport Obstruction Removal project. At your following meeting on September 20th, based on Mr. John Collins (AVCON) recommendation, the Board awarded the contract to the lowest responsive bidder, Collins Land Service out of Tallahassee. Today, for the Chairman’s signature, I have the Notice to Proceed for this project. Once signed, the completion date for this project will be January 15, 2023. As a reminder, this project will clear the obstruction around Runway 18, therefore reopening that runway. Mr. Collins is still finalizing the total obstruction removal project.

*Item addressed earlier in the meeting.*

3. Action Item: Committee Appointments

Currently, there are three committees that require action from the Board.

a. The first is a request from Dr. Sandra Brooke to appoint a Commissioner on the ABSI Community Advisory Board.

Board action to appoint a Commissioner to the ABSI Community Advisory Board.

**On a motion by Commissioner Sanders, seconded by Commissioner Lockley, to appoint Commissioner Amison to the ABSI Community Advisory Board. Motion carried 5-0.**

b. The second is an appointment of a Commissioner to the Transportation Disadvantage Board.

Board action to appoint a Commissioner to the Transportation Disadvantage Board.

**On a motion by Commissioner Ward, seconded by Commissioner Lockley, to appoint Commissioner Sanders to the Transportation Disadvantage Board. Motion carried 5-0.**

c. The third is to rotate the Municipal Elected seat on the Apalachee Regional Planning Council to the City of Carrabelle. The City of Apalachicola has served as the County's Municipal Elected member for the last two years.

Board action to request an elected appointee from the City of Carrabelle to fill the Municipal Elected seat on ARPC.

**On a motion by Commissioner Sanders, seconded by Commissioner Ward, to request an elected appointee from the City of Carrabelle to fill the Municipal Elected seat on ARPC. Motion carried 5-0.**

Chairman Jones asked if the Board needed to appoint someone to serve on the Small County Consortium board. Mr. Moron said he will look into this and let the Board know.

4. Action Item: TDC Recommendation

At your last meeting, the Board directed Mr. John Solomon, TDC Administrator, to seek a recommendation from the TDC to increase his contract amount to \$174,000 for the 2022-23 FY. The TDC, at their November 9th regular meeting, reconfirmed their recommendation for the \$174,000. With that stated, can the County proceed with negotiating a contract with Mr. Solomon for this amount?

Board discussion and possible action.

Commissioner Sanders clarified that the contract amount was not a direct reflection of Mr. Solomon's salary. Mr. Moron confirmed that the Chamber of Commerce is who the county contracts with and who receives the \$174,000. Commissioner Lockley asked if Mr. Solomon could provide a breakdown at the next meeting. **On a motion by Commissioner Lockley, seconded by Commissioner Ward, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board authorized the County to proceed with negotiating a contract with the Chamber of Commerce for this**

**amount. Motion carried 5-0.**

5. Action Item: Eastpoint Dredge Project

At the last meeting, staff was authorized to contact the Army Corp's dredge contractor Mike Hooks Enterprises to see what could be done to dredge the entirety of the Eastpoint channel as the Army Corp's contracted scope fell short. After discussions with the contractor, there appears to be about 1400 additional linear feet that will need to be dredged to make the entire channel navigable. In the attached schematic, the areas in the pink boxes will be the site of the additional dredge work. Coastal Dredging Company, Inc. (subcontracted dredge operator for Mike Hooks Enterprises) has provided the attached estimate of \$275,000 for the additional dredge work and confirmed that there is capacity available for the additional volume of spoil in the permitted disposal site with no change to the existing permits. There are also several areas where dry sediment has accreted (sandbars) which have blocked the old channel. For the removal of the dry sediment, a land-based contractor will need to be engaged. As this project is time-sensitive with the dredge contractor already mobilized and on-site, staff sought bids from three local contractors to quote what it would cost to remove the dry sediment. Of the estimates received, the lowest was Coastline Clearing and Development, LLC for \$52,000. County Attorney Michael Shuler will also need to draft temporary access easements/agreements with property owners to provide access for the land-based dredge efforts.

Does the Board wish to proceed with time-sensitive emergency procurement to pursue the attached scope of work and proposals mentioned above?

Discussion and possible action.

**Commissioner Ward made a motion to declare an emergency bypassing the ordinary bid process to pursue the attached scope of work and proposals mentioned above. Commissioner Lockley seconded the motion.** Commissioner Lockley said he wants to be sure they are dredging both channels at the same time. Chairman Jones noted that both channels are federal navigational channels. He said our issues have been lack of connectivity with funding sources. He said he plans to stay engaged with the Corps of Engineers so when they begin their next round of funding, they have Franklin County in it. Commissioner Amison asked if Mr. Moron if he had spoken with the Corps regarding the spoil sites. He has had a lot of landowners wanting to know why they can't pump it to the barrier islands to protect the area. Mrs. Griffith said they did the uplands disposal site because it was easier with the permitting process. The State of Florida does not like open water disposal sites. Mr. Moron said he will reach out to the Corps and have them give him a call. **Motion carried 5-0.**

6. Action Item: Site Readiness Workshop

Earlier this morning, Mrs. Mary Swoope of Duke Energy presented a \$25,000 check for a Duke Energy Economic Development Strategic Plan. Duke Energy has also been working on a Site Readiness Project at the Airport and would like to present their findings to the Board. I recommend doing this in a workshop setting on December 6th at 1:30 p.m. if everyone schedule allows. Mrs. Swoope can answer any questions regarding the Site Readiness project.

Board action to schedule a workshop on December 6th at 1:30 p.m. for Duke Energy's Site Readiness Project presentation.

*Item addressed earlier in the meeting.*

7. Action Item: ARPC LTPT partnership & Broadband Workshop

Earlier this morning you heard Mrs. Pat O’Connell’s (Interim Local Technology Planning Team Chairman) report. Last week, Mrs. O’Connell, Mrs. Cortni Bankston, and I met with Apalachee Regional Planning Council representatives to discuss any assistance they can offer to help with our Broadband Initiative efforts as they are assisting other counties in the region. Staff would like Board approval to work with ARPC before requesting any proposals or quotes.  
Board discussion and possible action.

*Item addressed earlier in the meeting.*

8. Action Item: Broadband Workshop

Mrs. O’Connell and Mrs. Bankston met with a few companies that provide internet service in the County. At some point, these firms may apply for Broadband funding and probably will ask for a letter of support from the County. We’ve been told that county letters of support help with scoring and funding for Broadband projects. Mrs. O’Connell and I think that it would be proper for these companies to meet with you in a workshop setting to explain their plan to make Broadband accessible for your residents. Mrs. O’Connell may have additional comments and can suggest a possible date for the workshop.  
Board discussion and possible action.

*Item addressed earlier in the meeting.*

9. Informational Item: SJLV Fire Fighter Training

Mr. Robert Amick held the first St. James/Lanark Village fireman training on Tuesday, November 8 at 5:00 p.m. in the SJLV Fire Station. Mr. Amick stated that it was a small but eager group that attended. Preliminary rules and procedures were covered along with a training timeline. The next training will be an all-day event on Saturday, December 3rd with a follow up training on December 13th. More firefighters are needed to re-open and activate the SJLV fire department.

10. Informational Item: TRIUMPH Meeting

Yesterday, Chairman Jones and I participated on a conference call with TRIUMPH representatives. Chairman Jones discussed projects that may qualify for TRIUMPH funding and may have additional comments on this meeting.

Chairman Jones explained he and Mr. Moron were able to meet with the Triumph board. The discussion they had was about a few projects. Moving forward with Weems Hospital, volunteer fire departments, economical development at the airport, and a new EOC building. Chairman Jones said his pitch is that you can’t be ready for an emergency if you are not ready every day. Hopefully, some of the things we talked about will work. We have such a medical need here, and it hinders economic development. We did not get any yeses, but we didn’t receive any nos. If we had broadband in the ground, it would be a lot more reliable than the towers. Commissioner Ward said we must tailor it to our size county.

Commissioner Sanders said that the county had an agreement with St. Joe Company regarding

three acres, believes the land reverted to St. Joe. Commissioner Sanders said she intended to contact George Gonzalez to see if we could get the three acres for possibly EMS, Sheriff, or fire. Commissioner Amison asked about the location of the EMS stations. Commissioner Sanders said they are amenable to moving towards Lanark if they can find a location. Mr. Moron said he will get with Louie and Mrs. Griffith to discuss. Mrs. Griffith noted they are about to have to put a roof on the building.

11. Informational Item: Meeting with Sheriff on Travel Trailers

Mr. Steve Paterson (Building Official), Mrs. Cortni Bankston (Zoning Administrator) and I will meet with Sheriff Smith and his staff tomorrow to discuss the current Travel Trailer Ordinance (82-6). The Sheriff would like to recommend some changes to the ordinance for your consideration. These changes will assist him with enforcement of the ordinance.

12. Informational Item: Centric 60-day extension

Attached to my report is a copy of the signed Centric 60-day extension approved at your last meeting.

13. Informational Item: Leon County Annual Report

Staff received a copy of the Leon County Annual Report. I can provide a link if you would like an electronic copy.

Mr. Moron said Carrabelle's building official will be unavailable for a little while and they have requested Mr. Patterson do some inspections for them. The City of Carrabelle would sign off on the reports. Mr. Moron said he is not sure exactly what they are wanting, and if he needs to once he finds out, he can reach out to the individually if needed. Commissioner Ward said she had spoken with the mayor, and she is okay with that. Attorney Shuler said we are lending a hand.

Chairman Jones said we continue to have an issue with the population of bears in the county. He said that Seminole County was able to get a grant from FWC to give every resident a bear proof can. Chairman Jones said he was told Franklin County has not asked for this grant. Chairman Jones would like for the county to consider drafting a letter to FWC requesting this grant. Mr. Moron noted that the regional director of FWC will be here at the December meeting.

Chairman Jones said he continues to have a particular zoning issue in his district. He has tried not to put out a lot of no parking signs. He said the other part of the problem is people are building monstrous houses that are being used as venues. Chairman Jones said if we don't take a stand some time, it is going to get worse.

26. County Attorney – Michael Shuler

Attorney Shuler had no action items for the Board. He welcomed Commissioner Amison and Commissioner Sanders to the Board.

27. Adjournment

There being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned.

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**Ricky Jones – Chairman**

**Attest:**

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**Michele Maxwell – Clerk of Courts**

The audio is available upon request. Please e-mail [jgay@franklinclerk.com](mailto:jgay@franklinclerk.com), call 850-653-8861 to speak with the Administrative Assistant, or submit a request in writing to obtain audio of this meeting.